

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FILE CABINETS

Congressman Olsen of Montana put the problem of Federal paperwork before the House of Representatives in the following terms:

"Mr. Speaker, some of us who have been laboring in the vineyard of Government records, reports, statistics, forms, and other paperwork were very pleased last week when President Johnson ordered the General Services Administration to cut down on purchases of file cabinets. According to the Washington Post of January 15 last, this move could result in a savings of \$5 million a year to the Government and we applaud this action.

"But, Mr. Speaker, to cut down on the number of file cabinets is to lock the barn door after the horse has been stolen. The records to be filed are already on our hands—25 million cubic feet of them and if you do not store them in file cabinets, you bundle them up and store them in Government buildings at a cost of \$2 per square foot, on the average. As a matter of fact, the Government's records holdings are at an all time high and the story about being buried in our own detritus may be more than apocryphal.

"Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues know, last year our Subcommittee on Census and Government Statistics went into this matter of reports, forms, questionnaires, statistics, records, and all the rest. We made studies and investigations, held hearings in several cities, and took testimony from over 100 witnesses from public and private life, including a number of my colleagues here in the House. Last fall, in the closing days of the 88th Congress, we published some 800 pages of hearings testimony under the title "The Federal Paperwork Jungle." To those of my colleagues who have not examined this hearings testimony, let me urge you to do so.

ONE BILLION REPORTS

"Our subcommittee will soon release its report on the 'Federal Paperwork Jungle.' The report will show that new Federal records are now being created at the rate of 4.5 billion a

year and this, again, is the highest rate in history. It will show that the Federal agencies now require over 1 billion reports a year from industry, business, and the public or some 5 reports for every man, woman, and child in the United States. It will show that one Federal agency, alone, the Internal Revenue Service, accounts for about one-half of all Federal reports or some 500 million forms a year, if we include the new reporting systems on dividends, rents, and interest authorized by Congress in the Federal Revenue Act of 1962. The other big Federal agencies in this paperwork game are: the Social Security Administration with over 300 million reports a year; the Bureau of Customs, 36 million; the Veterans' Administration, 33 million; the Census Bureau, 18 million; and the Bureau of Employment Security, 12.5 million.

DISBELIEF

"Although the members of our subcommittee had received many, many complaints from business, industry, and the public about the number and complexity of reports required and requested by the Federal agencies, we were genuinely shocked when we learned about the paperwork requirements inflicted upon the public by the Federal agencies. In order to verify our findings, we requested the Government Printing Office to check our figures. The Public Printer keeps careful records of printing orders and requisitions placed by the agencies and here is what he reported: In fiscal year 1964, the Government Printing Office printed 2.3 billion public-use forms for the Federal agencies, or some 12 forms for every man, woman, and child in the United States. Now, this figure, of course, includes copies, duplicates, unused forms, and all that, but it does not include internal use forms or other materials which do not go out to the public.

RESPONSIBILITY

"Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the Second Hoover Commission found that 'reporting to the Government is excessively expensive and burdensome,' and in 1956, President Eisenhower directed the Bureau of the Budget to

take actions necessary to reduce the unnecessary reporting burden on industry and the public. Our subcommittee report will show that now, some 10 years later, the situation is far worse than it was 10 years ago in spite of Presidential directives, Hoover Commission Congressional investigation, and so forth. One Federal department has today 262 more reports than it had when the Hoover Commission reported in 1955. Last year one Federal regulatory agency came out with a questionnaire which will cost each company a minimum of \$85,000 to complete. One firm told us that it will cost them \$250,000 to supply the information. Some small business people told us that Federal and State reporting requirements are driving them out of business. In fact, our report will show that Government reports cost small businessmen some \$2 billion every year.

"Our subcommittee has made a careful study of this paperwork mess and our findings and recommendations will be released soon. There is no question but that both the executive branch and Congress must share the blame in this proliferation of Federal reports and paperwork. We found that Federal administrators often are unaware of the volume of paperwork their assistants are foisting upon the public. We found also that the Federal Reports Act, which Congress passed during World War II, is not being effectively administered by the Bureau of the Budget. In Congress, as we well know, we have permitted archaic and outmoded legislation requiring all kinds of ancient reports to remain on the books year after year and we grind out new legislation, each Congress calling for all kinds of new reporting systems even though they duplicate existing ones.

"Mr. Speaker, time does not permit me to go on today, but to return to the President and the file cabinets, we all fully support his efforts to cut out waste and inefficiency everywhere, and I, for one, want to do everything I can to strengthen his hand. Millions of dollars in costs to the Government and to the public can be saved by cutting out excessive and unnecessary Federal reports.

"But, believe me, it will take the best efforts of Congress and the executive branch to cut down on excessive and needless Federal paperwork. 'Old forms never die, nor do they fade away. They outlast their author, their recipient and, in most cases, their purposes.'"

ANNUAL INSURANCE MEETING

The Association conducted its Annual Meeting on 27 January 1965. The officers presented an informative review of changes made in our insurance programs over the last year as well as important changes and improvements to be made in the coming year. The Association conducts 14 insurance programs which provide life, health, travel, dental, parents' health, and income replacement insurance coverage for Organization personnel. The total face value of life insurance in force is \$113,243,375 distributed among three plans as follows:

UBLIC	\$84,451,500
WAEPA	24,599,375
Contract Personnel	4,192,500

The officers and board will soon be studying various proposals by which to add a retirement feature to the current UBLIC plan. It is hoped that in the coming months it will be possible to develop a feature of UBLIC insurance which will allow a UBLIC policyholder to carry a portion of his UBLIC coverage into retirement. With the addition of such a feature, the UBLIC program would remove the only serious deficiency in its current coverage.

Plans for a new open period for PAMA and DENTA were announced at the Annual Meeting. Regular announcements concerning these open periods will be published within the next several months. Also, the current hospitalization plan for contract personnel is being reviewed in the hope that this policy can be amended to include the recent improvements made in the Association Benefit Plan. If effected, there will be a similar rate increase.

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